

Donald Duck

in "FIRE CHIEF"

Long after Carl Barks left the Disney Studio, he would continue to draw inspiration from cartoons he had helped to script. *Fire Chief* was released in 1940, five years after the artist began sketching Donald. By this time his pencil art had matured, and he created a finished, shaded duck that bears a striking resemblance to the comic book character he would draw for a similar story seven years later (*Walt Disney's Comics and Stories* 86). Note the distinctly Barksian touches in the storyboard art: the scowling portrait in the opening panel and the balloon-chested duck on the second page, which anticipates sight gags featuring characters like the Gneezles and the Terries and Fermies. Of course the comic takes a different tack from the cartoon, assigning the nephews a responsible role and demoting their uncle to the ignominious position of blundering onlooker.

The art, sketched for the most part in black pencil, has been colored for this printing. The inset of the alarm bell is by Jack Hannah, Barks' partner in the duck unit from 1939 to 1942. All the other drawings are by Barks.







